



Welcome to our Newsletter!

[AEC Web Site](#)

February 8, 2012

Attend the AEC's Next Meeting!

The Annapolis Environmental Commission's (AEC) meetings are open to the public. We hope you'll join our upcoming discussion about environmental issues facing our city on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room at 145 Gorman Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.

News Alert! Annexation Plan for the Hayes Property

The City Council's Rules Committee is finalizing the language for Resolution No. R-45-11, the conceptual site plan for the Hayes property annexation, which will be presented and voted on at the Council's regular meeting on Monday, February 13, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, second floor, 160 Duke of Gloucester Street, Annapolis. Learn more about the [Hayes Property](#).

Reserve at Quiet Waters (RQW) Development - Update

The RQW development will be heard by the Board of Appeals at City Hall on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is open to the public. The AEC continues to await a revised plan for this proposed development. It is our understanding that the developer has not yet complied with the Forest Conservation Act. While not ideal, the AEC supports the alternative plan offered by the Planning Commission, which preserves an additional 2.5 acres of Priority Forest but reduces the number of residential units from 158 to 153. Preserving Priority Forest not only complies with the City's Comprehensive Plan goals of increasing tree canopy, in this case by limiting its destruction, but also reduces impacts to the adjacent Quiet Waters Park. We hope that the City will "walk the walk," and adhere to its stated principles of Smart Growth, natural resource protection, and quality of life for our communities.

Written testimony should be addressed to:

**Chairman
Annapolis Board of Appeals
145 Gorman Street, 3rd Floor
Annapolis, MD 21401**

As We See It... The Crystal Spring Development

The developer continues to indicate that they are close to working out the environmental issues related to this site which contains various nontidal wetlands and valuable forest. However, it is the AEC's understanding that there are still many outstanding issues including, but not limited to,

questions regarding the appropriate zoning for forest calculations under the Forest Conservation Act, whether reforestation can take place on the Conservation Easement, as well as wetland delineations that the developer is requesting Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) change. The Department of Neighborhood and Environmental Programs (DNEP) team is keenly aware of these issues and is working hard to convince the developer to deliver a plan that is consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan and is a model for smart growth in Annapolis. Learn more and obtain a presentation about the proposed development [here](#).

Upcoming Hearing on Environmental Legislation

Some bills that are critical to the continued improvement of local creeks, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay will be heard on February 14, 2012. Supporters of the bills are strongly encouraged to attend.

SB 240 (HB 446 in the House) would increase the Bay Restoration Fund (or "flush tax") to \$5 a month. The revenue would be used to finish upgrading 67 major sewage plants in Maryland which, when finished, are expected to reduce nitrogen pollution to the Bay by 7.5 million pounds a year. Twenty-four plants have been upgraded so far, and many more are in construction. The Annapolis plant is scheduled to be finished in spring, 2013. Without the increase some of the largest plants in the state will not be upgraded. Those plants produce the majority of nitrogen pollution from sewage plants. The increase also will provide additional funding for upgrading failing septic systems, especially in the most sensitive environmental areas. Anne Arundel County has large numbers of these problem systems, but insufficient money to upgrade them all.

SB 236 (HB 445 in the House) aims to stop the proliferation of major housing subdivisions built in rural areas on septic systems. The traditional septic system is a 50-year-old technology. A home built with a septic system discharges up to ten times the amount of nitrogen pollution than a home on a sewer system. So it makes sense to limit how many new, large subdivisions should be permitted to use septs. The bill allows individual homes on septs and smaller subdivisions, but limits large housing projects in the most remote, environmentally sensitive areas. The bill also aims to steer growth to existing communities where sewer treatment is available. The legislation does not encourage sewer lines being extended into rural areas.

SB 237 (HB 441 in the House), **The Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2012**, is a bill that's vital to building Maryland's clean energy future. This bill will establish an offshore wind renewable energy credit within Maryland's existing Renewable Portfolio Standard that will encourage private investment in this emerging industry and help phase out dirty coal power. The first hearing is scheduled for February 14th, and the crucial committee vote could occur before the month is out. Please email and call your state senator and delegates ([Click here to search for them](#)) in support of this important bill. You can examine the bill [here](#).

A group of 14 environmental groups calling itself the [Clean Water, Healthy Families Coalition](#) is calling for additional legislation. If the General Assembly is not willing to increase the flush tax beyond \$5 a month (a Governor appointed task force this fall recommended tripling the fee) lawmakers should require local governments to impose stormwater utility fees. Annapolis already has such a fee. Most of the state has no dedicated form of revenue to address polluted runoff, the only source of nutrient pollution that is increasing. The coalition also believes that all new homes that choose to use septic technology should be required to use the best available technology, in the

same way developers are required to follow building codes and fire safety codes. [Learn more...](#)

Restaurant Week: Certified Annapolis Environmental Stewards

Annapolis' Restaurant Week is slated for February 20-26, 2012, and will give special recognition to restaurants that are Certified Annapolis Environmental Stewards. The 2011 version of the certification workbook is available [here](#).

[Learn more about Restaurant Week...](#)

March 17-18: Rain Barrel & Compost Bin Sale

DNEP and K & B True Value Hardware will host a Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Sale on Saturday and Sunday, March 17-18, at the [K & B True Value](#) store on Forest Drive and Bay Ridge Avenue. The cost of a backyard compost bin (valued at \$100) will be \$45 and the cost of a rain barrel (valued at \$120) will be \$55. There will be demonstrations and literature to take home. Store staff will be able to assist with loading. For more information, please call [410-263-7946](tel:410-263-7946) or visit www.SustainableAnnapolis.com. You do not need to be a resident of Annapolis to take advantage of this offer.

Upcoming Lecture: Native Plants for a Healthy Environment

Douglas Tallamy, a Professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at University of Delaware, and a recent speaker at the MDE workshop at the Patuxent Wildlife Center, is widely recognized for his ability to clearly explain complex ecological relationships among plants, insects and other animals. His award-winning book *Bringing Nature Home* is must reading for anyone interested in gardening, wildlife and in preserving sustainable environments. On March 20, 2012, Dr. Tallamy will speak on the interrelations of plants and animals and what we can do to preserve the services nature is providing us by using native plants in landscaping environments and reaping the far reaching benefits for our entire ecosystems which in turn provide us with clean air, water, food and healthy surroundings. Dr. Tallamy's talk, sponsored by the Cheverly Green Plan, will take place from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Cafeteria of the Judith P. Hoyer Montessori School, 2300 Belview Ave., Cheverly, MD, 20785. [Learn more about Dr. Tallamy...](#)

Public Comment Period for Draft of Maryland's Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan

Draft documentation of Maryland's Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is available for public review and comment on the MDE [website](#). The purpose of the preliminary draft was to provide The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with an opportunity to confirm that the proposed strategies would meet the Bay TMDL goals. All comments should be submitted in writing to MDE no later than March 9, 2012 by email (**preferred**) to: wipcoordinator@mde.state.md.us or by post to: Tom Thornton, Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 540, Baltimore MD 21230-1718. All comments received during the comment period will be considered as the State continues to refine the Phase II WIP for submittal to EPA on March 30, 2012. Comments will be consolidated and

responses provided in a document that will be available [on this web site](#). A series of regional public informational meetings is scheduled to take place during the comment period. Formal comments will not be taken at the public meetings, which are intended to provide information and answer questions about the draft Phase II WIP. Please check [here](#) for the schedule and additional information about the meetings.

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Attend the AEC's Next Meeting!

***February 15, 7:30 p.m.
145 Gorman Street, 3rd floor conference room***

The AEC is an independent board consisting of nine City residents who are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Aldermen to be concerned with the protection and improvement of the natural health and welfare of the environment.

The views portrayed by the AEC are not necessarily shared by the City of Annapolis, staff or elected officials.

www.annapolis.gov/environment
Email: environment@annapolis.gov